
Wisconsin Forestry Notes

April 2004

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

Arbor Day, a day set aside to reflect on the importance of trees in our lives, is celebrated in Wisconsin each year on the last Friday of April.

Tree to be planted at Capitol for Arbor Day

If you're in Madison on April 30th, you won't want to miss the "Year of Wisconsin Forestry" tree planting on the State Street side of the Capitol lawn for Arbor Day 2004. The planting, sponsored by the Wisconsin Nursery Association and Wisconsin Arborist Association, will begin at 10 a.m. Performer and woodland owner Stuart Stotts will debut a special song written for this historic year in Wisconsin's forest history. Following the tree planting, a ceremony in the Capitol will honor the student winners of the 2004 Arbor Day contests: Seth Berger of Marshfield, Kirsten Voss of Spring Green, Kody Luke of Grantsburg, Alexander Fox of Park Falls, Taylor Ziegler of Rhinelander, and Kelly Binning of Abbotsford. Information about the "Year of Wisconsin Forestry": <http://www.wisconsinforestry.org>

FLEP, a new federal program, helps decrease the backlog of Wisconsin forest landowners looking for financial assistance for forest practices on their woodlands.

Forest Land Enhancement Program in Wisconsin

The federal program Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) has brought an additional \$450,000 to landowners in Wisconsin. Demand continues to exceed funding for the state cost share program [Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program \(WFLGP\)](#). Over 620 landowners were funded in 2003 with WFLGP money. Approximately 180 landowners have already been awarded FLEP money in 2004. This has eliminated approximately two thirds of DNR's backlog of cost sharing requests. And since FLEP funding has been funneled through the already existing WFLGP, the application process is the same. Practices eligible for cost sharing include development of forest stewardship plans, reforestation, forest stand improvement, invasive species control, habitat improvement and others.

Woodland owners learn how to become effective advocates for sustainable forestry at Wisconsin's Woodland Leadership Institute.

Institute trains woodland leaders in Wisconsin

Wisconsin's Woodland Leadership Institute, a program designed to educate and equip woodland owners to become leaders in their local communities on issues related to sustainable forestry, is seeking candidates for the class of 2004. If you know a landowner who may be interested in participating in this program contact [John DuPlissis](#) at (715) 346-4128 or check out the Institute online at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/fop/wwwli.htm.

Graduates of the Woodland Leadership Institute are expected to play an active role as leaders in woodland landowner organizations and to impact forest management by woodland owners through peer-to-peer contact and planned activities in their local community. Each graduate is required to develop an action plan for how they will use what they learn through participation in the Institute. Actions completed to date range from educating the public about the spread of buckthorn to working on establishing new landowner alliances. The Institute has had 70 graduates in the first three classes since it began in 2001. Program graduates gathered in Wisconsin Rapids on March 19-20 to share success stories and learn more. Fred Souba (Chair of the Council on Forestry), Rep. Don Friske and Chief State Forester Paul DeLong talked to the group about current forestry initiatives in Wisconsin.

Nominations for the 2004 session are sought now.

Congratulations to Milwaukee's Joe Wilson on his new role as national leader in urban forestry!

Milwaukee man tapped to lead national council

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced in March that Joseph Wilson, executive director of Greening Milwaukee, has been appointed to serve as chair of the USDA's 15-member National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council. The council advises the Secretary on the care and management of trees, forests and related natural resources in urban and community settings throughout the nation. In addition, the council makes recommendations to the USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program on competitive cost-share grants that advance the science and practice of urban forestry. For more information, visit <http://www.treelink.org/nucfac/> and <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/>.

Since its introduction into the United States in 1869, the gypsy moth has defoliated thousands of acres of hardwood forests. In Wisconsin, DNR, DATCP and UW - Extension work together to keep the pest at tolerable levels and educate the public about the nuisance.

Gypsy moth suppression plans for 2004

The Wisconsin DNR offers a voluntary program to suppress gypsy moth outbreaks using a state-organized aerial insecticide treatment. Participation in the aerial spray treatment allows communities and individuals to manage gypsy moth outbreaks in areas where other options are not available and at a low cost. The DNR's suppression program is offered to landowners through counties. For those counties who met the December 1 application deadline, treatments will be either a formulation of the bacterial insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstakii* (Btk) or Gypchek, a viral insecticide specific to Gypsy Moth caterpillars. Gypchek will be applied where endangered or threatened moths or butterflies are present. Both Btk and Gypchek are highly unlikely to cause any adverse health reactions and are naturally occurring. Small airplanes will spray Btk and Gypchek in late-May and early-June, beginning very early in the morning.

In order to detect newly established gypsy moth infestations and determine regional population trends, DNR and Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) participate in a statewide male moth trapping grid. Seasonal workers place traps at varying densities, and male moths are attracted to the trap by the same pheromone (scent) that is given off by a female moth. In non-quarantined counties where the gypsy moth is not yet established or is established at low densities, trapping is more intensive (1 trap per 1 square mile or 1 trap per 2 square miles) in order to determine where isolated colonies are located. In counties where gypsy moth is not generally established, DATCP sprays these colonies as part of the Slow-The-Spread program to reduce the rate of westward spread of the gypsy moth. An intensive trapping grid allows DATCP to identify colonies and target areas to be treated. In eastern counties, the gypsy moth is well established, and the trapping program provides information on changes in the population level of the pest. Where trapping results indicate the population of gypsy moth is rising to levels where defoliation could result, landowners are warned to conduct predictive egg mass surveys and consider a suppression spray if they wish to avoid defoliation.

For information about the gypsy moth programs and maps of the 2004 spray blocks, visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/FH/gm/index.htm>

Educator workshops to focus on gypsy moth

WISE - Web-based Inquiry Science Environment - is a program that uses a scientific topic such as the gypsy moth with the power of the Internet to help students learn how to analyze and critically assess current issues.

The DNR – Division of Forestry will host free Web-based Inquiry Science Environment (WISE) workshops for secondary teachers in Wisconsin – one at UW-River Falls on April 17 and another on June 30 at Madison Area Technical College. The WISE program uses the power of the Internet as a learning tool, guiding middle and high school-aged students to analyze and critically assess current scientific issues. The upcoming workshops will train secondary educators to use WISE to integrate current environmental issues and technology in the classroom, with a focus on the Gypsy Moth. Teachers wishing to register for the sessions can contact [Colin Kelly](#) at (608) 267-6854 or visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/FH/gm/wiseworkshops.htm>

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